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# **Fill-in-the-Blank Mini-Chapter on Ancient Mesopotamia**

Directions: Read pages 54-57, 58-63, and 66 through 71 in Our World, and pages 17-25 in A Little History of the World. Then, read through the below text. After that, find the correct word from the texts that belongs in each blank.

Mesopotamia is one of the world’s first civilizations. The word   
“Mesopotamia means the land between the rivers”

In Greek. The rivers that formed this area, which is called the Fertile Crescent, are the Tigris and the Euphrates.

Southern Mesopotamia also goes by the name Sumer. This region was made up not of countries or counties, but of city-states, which is a powerful tools that controls the space around it. Three such city-states were Uruk, Nippur, and Eridu.

The Mesopotamians created one of the world’s first written languages. It is called cuneiform. This was made by scratching on a wet, clay table. It has about 500 symbols or pictures writing that look like the thing they describe. Usually boys went to school to learn to read, to write, and do mathematics. After they left school, they became a scribe or official writer. They wrote laws, legends, letters, and records. The world first set of written code of laws, called the code of Hummurabi was a written in this language.

The ancient Mesopotamians believed in many gods. This is called

Polytheism. Most of their gods were nature gods. Ki was the god for a good harvest; Enlil was the god of rain, and Enki was the god of water. The Mesopotamians built large step-temples called ziggurat on which they worshipped their gods.